

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

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L/ EB: FKWILLIS (SUB)

CAB - FMURPHY (SUB)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, AU

SUBJ: CIVAIR - NORTH ATLANTIC FARES

REF : ATHENS 1783

1) EMBASSY SHOULD PASS FOLLOWING INFO PROVIDED BY CIVIL
AERONAUTICS BOARD TO GREEK CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES:

2) THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD (CAB) HAS PERMITTED OLYMPIC
AIRWAYS TO CONTINUE THROUGH APRIL 14, 1973, THE PREVIOUS-
LY EFFECTIVE NON- AFFINITY GROUP FARES APPLYING BETWEEN
GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES, ALTHOUGH SUCH A CONTINUATION
WAS INITIALLY SUSPENDED BY THE BOARD EFFECTIVE APRIL 1.
THIS SUSPENSION WAS MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OVERALL
FARE PROPOSAL FILED BY OLYMPIC WHEN IT APPEARED THAT THE
INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION (IATA) WOULD BE
UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A PATTERN OF TRANSATLANTIC
FARES FOR APPLICATION BEYOND THAT DATE.
THE NORTH ATLANTIC CARRIERS HAVE NOW AGREED ON CONTINU-
ATION OF STATUS QUO FARES, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CURRENCY
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ADJUSTMENTS, PENDING FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN IATA ON A NEW FARE STRUCTURE. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT ACCEPTANCE BY THE CAB OF A REVISED SCHEDULE OF AFFINITY AND NON- AFFINITY GROUP FARES FOR TRAVEL BETWEEN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES IS A NECESSARY CONDITION FOR ADHERENCE TO THE IATA AGREEMENT BY OLYMPIC AIRWAYS. CAB NOTES THAT OLYMPIC AIRWAYS NOW PROPOSES THAT THE

NON- AFFINITY GROUP FARES BETWEEN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES BE SET AT A LEVEL SOMEWHAT HIGHER THAN PREVIOUSLY IN EFFECT. CAB CONTINUES TO BE OF THE OPINION THAT EXTENSION OF SUCH RELATIVELY LOW AND NON- RESTRICTIVE FARES INTO THE PEAK SEASON IS ECONOMICALLY UNSOUND. HOWEVER, HAVING IN MIND THE PARAMOUNT OBJECTIVE NOW TO ACHIEVE A STABLE FARE SITUATION FOR THE 1973 SUMMER SEASON, CAB HAS DETERMINED NOT TO SUSPEND THE GROUP FARES WHICH ARE THE SUBJECT OF AN ORDER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE. OLYMPIC AIRWAYS, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO PLACE AN EXPIRATION DATE OF DECEMBER 31, 1973, ON ITS TARIFF TO MAKE ITS DURATION CONSISTENT WITH THE LIFE OF THE IATA AGREEMENT.

3) EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM GREEK CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES THAT WE WISH TO DISCUSS FARES MENTIONED ABOVE DURING THE FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN WASHINGTON ON MAY 7, 1973.
ROGERS

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